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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/068,694	02/06/2002	Tyler L. Adam	11862.16US01	9196
23552	7590	10/29/2004	EXAMINER	
MERCHANT & GOULD PC P.O. BOX 2903 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402-0903			MANOHARAN, VIRGINIA	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1764	

DATE MAILED: 10/29/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/068,694

Applicant(s)

ADAM ET AL.

Examiner

Virginia Manoharan

Art Unit

1764

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 August 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,4-10,14-16 and 19-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3,13 and 18 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### DETAILED ACTION

Applicant should update the status of the parent application indicated at page 1 of the specification.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made. **DET**

Claims 1, 4-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Angelos 95,881,763.

Angelos is deemed to render obvious the claimed "manifold, comprising: a body having a water inlet for connection to a water supply, a water exit port, a first fluid passage connecting the water inlet port to the water exit port, a drain inlet port for connection to the boiling tank, a drain outlet port, a second flow passage connecting the drain inlet port to the drain outlet port, and a third flow passage connecting the first flow passage with the second flow passage...." as broadly claimed e.g. in claim 1. See e.g., Figs. 1A-5 and cols 3-5 and col. 8 of the Angelos' reference.

While not positively recited, obviously, the manifold of Angelos can be used for water purification system having a boiling tank. Note Angelos' suggestion e.g., at col. 3, lines 1-4. The apparatus of Angelos differs from the claimed invention in that the various passages of the prior art are shown to be perpendicular to each other, as opposed to the claimed flow passages each defining a longitudinal axis, and the two

longitudinal axes are disposed at a shallow angle with respect to each other. However, this difference is deemed not to constitute a patentable distinction inasmuch as the same result is achieved, i.e. the desired flow will pass through the passages. It is noteworthy that claim 1 is not limited to the argued "the shallow angle between the two flow passages aids in the creation of a venturi effect in the passages and aids in the removal of water from a boiling tank to which the manifold may be attached..".

Claims 10, 14-16 & 19-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Angelos in view of Chang et al.

Angelos is discussed supra. Chang et al is applied to teach that the " means for creating a venturi effect in the second flow passage to produce a suction in the second flow passage and on the drain inlet port..." as further claimed in claim 10; and the "water purification system for purifying water from a water supply, comprising: a boiling tank for boiling water from the water supply; a condenser connected to said boiling tank for receiving steam from said boiling tank and for condensing the steam to form distilled water; and a distilled water tank connected to said condenser for collecting distilled water from said condenser..." are known expediciencies in the art. To combine Chang's above teachings to the apparatus of Angelos would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art since both references are directed to similar processing environment, i.e., to water treatment.

Claims 3, 13 & 18 objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

(a) Taylor shows in Fig. 8 connecting the drain line (110) with water line (116) by means (120).


(b) Hedge shows in Fig. 2 the (26) tie- in water line to drain line (23).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Virginia Manoharan whose telephone number is 571-271-1450. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday-Friday from 7:30 am to 6:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glenn Caldarola can be reached on (571) 272-1444. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

V. Manoharana/af  
October 22, 2004

  
VIRGINIA MANOHARAN  
PRIMARY EXAMINER  
ART UNIT 1221764